formed;

c) adding an alkaline earth metal sulfonate [or sulfonate-containing mixture] to said solution of said water and said associative thickener; and

d) mixing said alkaline earth metal sulfonate [or sulfonate-containing mixture] together with said solution of said water and said associative thickener until a uniform emulsion is formed.

2. An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 1.

3. (Amended Once) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said [urethane-based] associative thickener [compound] is [a] nonionic[, associative thickener].

4. (Amended Once) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said alkaline earth metal sulfonate [or said sulfonate-containing mixture] is comprised of an alkaline earth metal selected from the group consisting of Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium and Barium [overbased] compounded with a sulfonate which said sulfonate may be either alkaline or neutral.

5. (Amended Once) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said [sulfonate-containing mixture is comprised of a] alkaline earth metal sulfonate is mixed with at least one additive selected from the group consisting of oils, waxes, microcrystalline waxes, petrolatums, tall oil fatty acids, calcium salts of oxidized petrolatums, nonionic surfactants, and [linear alcohol/hydrocarbon mixtures] mixtures of a linear alcohol and a hydrocarbon.

6. (Amended Once) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 1, wherein said alkaline earth metal sulfonate is mixed with [calcium overbased sulfonate structurally modified to contain] crystalline calcium carbonate.

Kindly add the following new claims:

-11. (New) A method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound, said method comprising the steps of:

a) adding an associative thickener to water;

b) dispersing said associative thickener in said water by mixing until a uniform solution of said water and said associative thickener is formed;

c) mixing an alkaline earth metal sulfonate with at least one additive selected from the group consisting of oils, waxes, microcrystalline

waxes, petrolatums, tall oil fatty acids, calcium salts of oxidized petrolatums, nonionic surfactants, and mixtures of a linear alcohol and a hydrocarbon;

d) adding said mixture of said alkaline earth metal sulfonate and said at least one additive to said solution of said water and said associative thickener; and

e) mixing said mixture of said alkaline earth metal sulfonate and said at least one additive with said solution of said water and said associative thickener until a uniform emulsion is formed.

12. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 11.

13. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 11, wherein said associative thickener is nonionic.

14. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 11, wherein said alkaline earth metal sulfonate is comprised of an alkaline earth metal selected from the group consisting of Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium and Barium compounded with a sulfonate which said sulfonate may be either alkaline or neutral.

15. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 11, wherein said alkaline earth metal sulfonate is mixed with at least one additive selected from the group consisting of oils, waxes, microcrystalline waxes, petrolatums, tall oil fatty acids, calcium salts of oxidized petrolatums, nonionic surfactants, and mixtures of a linear alcohol and a hydrocarbon.

16. (New) The method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound of claim 11, wherein said alkaline earth metal sulfonate is mixed with crystalline calcium carbonate.

17. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 13.

18. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 14.

19. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 15.

20. (New) An amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound prepared in accordance with the method of claim 16.--